

December 14, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC - MAILROOM

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

At a time when our service men and women are being asked to extend their tours of duty away from family and loved ones, we ought to reward their resolve, not further strain their connections to home. Needless to say, I am dismayed to learn that the FCC is considering raising the cost for our troops to call home using the pre-paid calling cards that virtually all of them use. The Commission must not take any action that would make it more expensive to use pre-paid calling cards.

The cards have proven to be a valuable asset not just to those serving abroad also to the men and women stationed on bases around the country. Our troops are able to call friends and family for just pennies a minute and now would be a terrible time for the FCC to impose new charges on calling cards that would increase prices by as much as 20%.

Believe me that a 20% increase in the cost of pre-paid calling card service will send a clear message to our troops that bureaucrats in Washington are making policies without any concern for the impact on soldiers on the ground. Even the slightest increase in the price of keeping in touch will unnecessarily place an even greater strain on the already fragile morale of our troops.

Please do the right thing and keep the cost of prepaid calls low. Our troops and their families deserve no less.

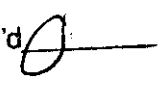
Sincerely,



Brian Fletcher, CSC
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC, Retired
5735 Broadmoor Bluffs Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

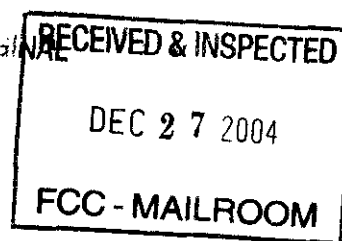
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December 15, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

During the holiday season, telephones calls often are the only way for our troops to feel close to home as they are stationed around the globe. I cannot believe that the FCC would consider tacking on additional fees to pre-paid calling cards, which so many of our troops rely on for affordable phone service. I urge the Commission to immediately stop any consideration of new fees that would make it more expensive for our men and women who are serving the country so bravely to call home.

Approximately 95% of our servicemen and women use pre-paid calling cards, not to mention the families who await their return. With the freedom to call home for mere pennies per minute, the cards have become an invaluable morale-building tool among members of the Armed Services.

I could not agree more with a *Marine Corps Times* editorial earlier this year which said: "Making soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines victims of the intense competition in the telecommunications industry would be a terrible move at the worst possible time." Now is not the time for the FCC to add new burdens on our troops by making it more expensive for them to let their families know that they are safe.

Considering how much we ask from our troops, it is not too much to ask the FCC to ensure that calling card prices remain affordable for our military and their families. I ask you not to add new fees to the cost of pre-paid calling cards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Timm".

Debra Timm
Major, US Air Force Reserve
Address: 3835 Cherry Plum Dr
Colorado Springs, CO. 80920

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin

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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein